NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
May 21, 1999

Hands on the future of science!!

The Chicago National Science Olympiad, 1999, was a complete success!! Over 4,000 people came in for this fantastic event, including people from almost every state, including Alaska! Students from all over were thrilled to come to Chicago and visit premier science institutions such as ours. The Field Museum received rave reviews as a host for this event. We can provide a hands-on test-taking atmosphere above and beyond most university hosts; instead of pure paper tests, the students were able to use real specimens from our collections to answer the test questions carefully crafted by our Museum scientists! The Welcoming Ceremony Friday evening was quite an event, with guest speakers **John Flynn** (Geology) and John Grunsfeld, NASA astronaut, and finishing off with a fantastic drumming ceremony and circle with our friends from the Primal Connection.

A big thank-you goes out to everyone who helped make this tournament a terrific success: our scientists and event supervisors, for creating some challenging and engaging tests to show these kids where they can go; all of Public Services, and especially Housekeeping, for setting up all the event tables and chairs and cleaning up after all 4,000 people; Engineering, for finding power and lights for the competitive events; Visitor Services, for welcoming these small-town (and big-town) students; Security, for dealing with all the parking issues that (of course) came up; A/V, for giving us sound and support; Education, for organizing registration, events, and opening ceremony; Public Relations, for getting so much press here to cover the event; Special Events, for helping coordinate; Exhibits, for the signage that was so terribly important to direct the participants; FP&O, for ensuring there was no construction to distract them during their competitions; the Museum Store, for helping us deal with everyone who wanted a souvenir of their time here; Corner Bakery and McDonalds, for providing lunch and coffee for many of these people; Photography, for documenting our opening ceremony; and last, but not least, to all our Volunteers without whom we would have never made it!!

It took Museum-wide effort but we made it.

CONGRATULATIONS, CNSO, 1999!!!

Submitted by **Johanna Krynytzky**

FIELD NOTES

Week of May 24

Public Events/Special Events

Dinosaur Trading Post
- Saturday & Sunday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Seminar Series
- Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

SUE Lecture with Chris Brochu
- Wednesday Noon, JST

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS

Call or stop by the Human Resources office for discounted movie tickets for Loews/Cineplex Odeon/Sony Theatres for only $5.

STAFF LECTURE

SUE: The Inside Story

with Chris Brochu

Wednesday, May 26, 12 Noon

James Simpson Theater

Hear our very own **Chris Brochu** discuss the latest discoveries about the "largest and most complete T. rex ever found." Chris will report on the scientific study of SUE, including the state-of-the-art CT scans featured in the June issue of National Geographic. If you are unable to attend on Wednesday, please join us Sunday, May 30 at 3 p.m. in James Simpson Theatre for Chris' public lecture at which Sue Hendrickson, who discovered SUE, will be introduced to the audience. To reserve staff tickets for the Sunday lecture please call ext. 854 or ext. 7400.

Submitted by **Beth Adams**

NEWS FROM MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

Calling all cyclists, families and friends!

LAKEFRONT MUSEUM BIKE DAY
Sunday, May 23, 1999
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lakefront Museum Bike Day, coordinated by Museum Campus Chicago and the Museum of Science & Industry, is Sunday, May 23. Ride your bike to an outdoor Museum Campus Welcome Center (follow the signs on the bike path), present your bike helmet and receive free admission to any one of the lakefront museums – Adler, Field and Shedd. (Ride your bike to MSI and receive free admission too).

Enjoy FREE refreshments, bike valet and bike safety check. Register to win great prizes! Kim & Carlo's hot dogs will feature menu items at a discounted rate. Call ext. 586 (or ext. 7421) or (312) 409-9696 for more information or to volunteer. Lakefront Museum Bike Day is one of 35 new events of Chicago Bike Week, May 14-23, 1999.

Submitted by **Christina Breslow**

Attention soccer fans

The Museum's Social Events Committee would like to know if YOU want to attend a Chicago Fire soccer game! If you would be interested in attending a home game at Soldier Field, please call **Kara Deniston** at ext. 265 (or ext. 7327), or email at kdeniston@fmnh.org. The games we are interested in attending are on weekdays, starting at 7 p.m., and tickets would be $8 each. Dinner would be served at the Museum prior to game time.

Submitted by the Social Events Committee

ATTENTION ALL STAFF: TELEPHONE SCAM WARNING

A colleague from Florida has alerted us to a PHONE SCAM. He was called by someone claiming to be a phone company employee and asked to dial **9 0 #** as part of a telephone testing protocol. Suspicious, our friend called the phone company instead, and found that dialing this sequence will make your line available to the caller – to talk to anyone, anywhere, for as long as they want, *at your expense*. This sequence works for many different phone companies. **Do not dial 9 0 # unless you want to make your line available to someone else.**

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

THE FIELD MUSEUM
Inter-Office Correspondence

DATE: 16 May 1999

TO: John McCarter, President

FROM: Bill Stanley, Mammals Bill

RE: Thanks to Security!

The helpfulness, attention to detail, courtesy, and professionalism that is exhibited by all the Security staff is noteworthy. The events detailed below deserve special mention.

Recently, Brian Simmons was making his rounds on the third floor and noticed an alarm activated on our frozen tissue collection freezer. He not only took the time to alert a staff member familiar with the unit to ensure that the collection was safe, he organized an updated contact list to be posted on the freezer and filed in Security. While the collection was in no danger, Brian contributed significantly to the continued safety of this irreplaceable collection.

While Rhonda Perdue was stationed in the area between "What Is An Animal" and the "African Water Hole" she noticed that I was measuring the temperature and humidity in the area. She asked what I was doing and I explained that we were worried about the effect fluctuating climatic conditions might have on the mounted specimens. When I returned the following week to take more measurements Rhonda showed me some mounts that were cracked or otherwise damaged. These cracks in the specimens were not easy to locate and it was obvious Rhonda had carefully examined the various mounts in her area while not leaving her station. Because of Rhonda's observations and subsequent reports to me, these mounts and their positions are now receiving special attention.

Wendell Davis was making rounds through the Division of Mammals and found a video camera that a visiting scientist had left laying out on the counter. He took the camera to Security so that it would be safe during the night. When the scientist returned the next morning in a panic because she had forgotten her camera she was moved to tears that someone would have been so thoughtful as to have secured the camera (she was not as much worried about the data she had collected with the camera as she was about the footage of her baby walking for the first time). She told me that "such action by the Security staff would never happen in my museum".

These examples are just some of what we see everyday exhibited by a staff that really cares for the collections, the staff and the visitors of the Field Museum. Security-many, many thanks!

cc: R. Cundiff, Security
D. White, Public Services

Corporate
IMAGE
Solutions, Inc.

May 14, 1999

Mr. John McCarter
The Field Museum
Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60605-9410

Dear Mr. McCarter,

I recently was at the museum to tape an interview with Dr. Jonathan Haas regarding the Mentorship program he is involved with through IMSA. Upon my and the taping crews arrival, we had been instructed to speak with security. I am writing with regards to my experience with a particular member of your security staff. I want to express my great appreciation to the efficiency and courtesy of Steve Grissom.

We first explained to Steve why we were there. He immediately started assisting us as to which doors to bring in our equipment and then he proceeded by making the appropriate calls and escorting us to the correct elevators, etc. I can't relay to you the number of situations we have been in where we were treated as if we were international spies.

I was very impressed by the pride which Steve represented The Field Museum. I also believe that when a person goes the extra step that they should be recognized. With this in mind I asked another employee at the Museum for Steve's name as well as his superiors name in which I could send this letter.

I wanted to express my appreciation for all the help I received at The Field Museum. I've also enclosed some information about our company and if there is ever a way in which I can extend any help ... please call.

Sincerely,

Laura S. Hunt-Hahn

Laura S. Hunt-Hahn
Vice President

516 Claremont Drive • Downers Grove, IL 60516 • Phone: 630.852.5125 • Fax: 630.852.5126 • Email: corpimsol@aol.com

1999

June

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 DRhoder-Rice *Chg Blues Fest/ZGrant Pk*	2 PWrenn-Whole Museum 3pm-9pm *Chg Blues Fest/ZGrant Pk*	3 AGeppert-Rice/Udr Adv 5:00pm-10:00pm *Chg. Blues Festival/Grant Pk*	4 Ed-Overnight *Chg. Blues Festival/Grant Pk*	5 U of I Chg Lab Schools-SFH JKryzytsky-Rice 5pm-12am *Chg. Blues Festival/Grant Pk*
6 *Chicago Blues Festival/Grant Pk*	7 JFrazier-Ed-Whole Museum 5:00pm-8:30pm	8 T-Special Events-SFH FLevin-Rice 11am-4pm	9 DRhoder-Rice KDeniston-Undgrd Adv-5:00pm-9:00pm 50	10 Chg. H.S. for Agr. Sci-JST Rehearsal 9:30am-12:30pm Mark Gill -SFH Rehearsal/Set-up 5:30pm-12:30am 100	11 Chg. H.S. for Agr. Sci-JST 12:00pm-6:00pm 900 Aaron Neck Show-SFH/Bal 9Loopm-1:00am *Chg. Gospel Festival/Grant Pk*	12 Jackson Park Hosp-SFH/Bal 5:30pm-11:00pm 500 LSanders-Rice-11:00am-2:00pm 250 *Chg. Gospel Festival/Grant Pk*
13 Set-Up for BET-SFH/Bal 7:00pm-12:00am *Chicago Gospel Festival/Grant Pk*	14 BET-Whole Museum 8:00pm-12:00am 1000Chg. Prk Dist-JST 7:00pm-8:00pm 300 Taste of Chg Cart Race-SF 8am-5pm	15 Camp Internet-JEagleton-SFH 5:30pm-7:30pm 200 Set-up Taste of Chicago Cart Race-SF 8am-5pm	16 MacArthur Found-Rice 120 Set-up Taste of Chicago	17 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm Set-up Taste of Chicago	18 Ed-Overnight Set-up Taste of Chicago	19 Darvin Wedding-SFH 7:30pm-1:00am Fire vs San Jose 7pm
20 IAMD Graduation-JST 10am-4pm 500 Set-up Taste of Chicago	21 American Press-Rice/UndrAdv 6:00pm-10:00pm Set-up Taste of Chciago	22 LDini-Buddha exhibit 8am-12pm LBreslauer-Spring Symposium JST/Rice 7am-12am	23 LBreslauer-Spring Symposium JST/Rice 7am-2pm Set-up Taste of Chicago	24 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk* Women's World Cup 5pm-60,000	25 T-Special Events-Rice *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk* *Country Music Fest*	26 Furaco Wedding-SFH/Rice 350 JByrnes-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk* *Country Music Fest* Women's World Cup 5pm-60,000
27 JByrnes-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*	28 Amer. Health Lawyers-SFH 7:00pm-11:00pm 800 *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*	29 KWebber-JST 2pm-10pm T-Special Events-Rice *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*	30 BAdams-JST/Budda Exhibit 3pm-10pm T-Special Events-SFH *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*			

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Crane's travels

Peter R. Crane just returned from ten days in Europe mainly devoted to research on early fossil flowers with colleagues in Stockholm. The trip also included presentation of the annual lecture at the Annual General Meeting of the Palaeontological Association, a seminar in the Department of Plant Sciences at Oxford University, and a very brief stop at Kew.

Fialkowski presents paper at Cary conference

Every two years since 1985, the Institute for Ecosystem Studies at the Cary Arboretum in Millbrook, New York sponsors an invitation-only symposium to further the research on policy agenda related to ecosystem studies. **Carol Fialkowski** (ECP) participated in this year's symposium, "Understanding Urban Ecosystems: A New Frontier in Science and Education," which was held from April 26-30.

Invitees from disciplines such as anthropology, ecology, cognitive psychology, education, and environmental justice focused on four issues: the importance of understanding urban ecosystems; conceptual foundations in the natural and social sciences that affect that understanding; foundations of understanding from educational theory and practice; and how the promise of urban ecosystem education can be achieved.

Because of her work in urban environmental education, Carol also served on the Steering Committee that recommended participants, topics and issues. Carol's paper "Approaches to urban ecosystem education in Chicago" was part of the educational theory and practice section.

A book is one of the products of each symposium. The papers that were presented and solicited are edited into chapters for the book. These chapters represent the thinking of participants and explore issues raised through discussion and by the participants. Books from past Cary Conferences are available in our library and further information on this year's conference is available online at

www.ecostudies.org/caryconference8.html.

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

Adam Steiner, a biology and computer science major at Knox College, will speak to us on "Exploring the World's Smallest Beetles: Using 3-D Imagery to Uncover the Internal Reproductive Anatomy of the Featherwing beetles (Coleoptera: Ptiliidae." These minute beetles were studied intensively here at The Field Museum by Henry Dybas thirty years ago. Adam, working under the direction of Linda Dybas, is using new technologies to give us a better insight into how these little insects live their lives. Please join us at 12 noon in the Zoology classroom on May 25.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to **Michele Eck** (Botany) who has accepted the position of Criminal Research Specialist for the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration in Chicago. Michele qualified in part for the position as an outstanding scholar for her undergraduate and graduate work in multiple disciplines.

Submitted by **Randy Smith**

She's bob-bob-bobbin' along...

Having already taken care of the new millennium, **Robin Wagner** is looking for bigger challenges. Come help the Project Millennium team bid adieu to our Programming Coordinator Extraordinaire, as she moves on to new frontiers. Join us for a morning coffee-and-goodies break on Robin's last day, Thursday, May 27, at 10 am in the fourth floor exhibit developers' loft.

Submitted by **Maureen King**

Donations Needed for the Dinosaur Trading Post

Hey Dino Fans.... it's time to clean out your closets and drawers! The Education Department is seeking dinosaur-related materials for the "Dinosaur Trading Post" that will be held May 29, 30 and 31. During this event, Museum visitors are asked to bring in a dinosaur item (books, toys, articles, etc.) and trade them for slightly used or new items. Please help us supplement our supply of "dino treasures" by donating items that you no longer want. Please bring your dinosaur-related items to the Education Department, or call **Peter Laraba** (ext. 7519) or **Sue Stott** (ext. 7531). Thanks for your help!

Submitted by **Sue Stott**

TELEPHONE RENOVATION UPDATE

- The night of Friday, May 21 remains the date for cutover to our renovated telephone system and new voicemail.
- The current Meridian system will be replaced by our new Octel Voice/Faxmail system. All new and saved messages will be unavailable after 5 p.m. on Friday, May 21.
- Help Desk assistance will be available Monday, May 24 all day at ext. 8200.
- GTE service will be in the building full time next week to handle any cutover issues specific to service corrections. They can be reached through the help desk, ext. 8200.
- Service is expected to be complete in the early morning hours of Saturday, May 22. However, there are sometimes glitches in any conversion of this magnitude. Most utilized and security/safety related service will have priority. Expect a fully functioning system at all desksets at opening of business on Monday, May 24.
- The new system is *direct dial* from outside the Museum. *Encourage your outside callers to use your new 7 digit telephone number.* The main number to The Field Museum remains (312) 922-9410 should they require other Museum services or an attendant.
- For those that missed it, training for the new voicemail system will be available Monday, May at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Classroom 3.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation and encouragement.

Submitted by **Lou French**

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Has your account number been changed from your original purchase order?

If you are submitting a Payment Approval with an invoice and already have a purchase order, *do not* fill out the account number line *unless* you know the account number has been changed. If this is the case, please state on the "Comments" line of the Payment Approval form that the correct account number is different from that on the original purchase order. And please attach a copy of the new purchase order to the Payment Approval.

Reminder: check envelope recycling

We have started to get a few window envelopes back from some of you, but we know there are more out there. Please help us reduce the number of envelopes we go through each month. If they are piling up in your office or getting thrown away after your department picks up checks, please return them to **Kim Greene** in the Finance Department to be recycled for employee check distribution.

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 7286, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 7249, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!